



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2023-181

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 1, 2023

Project Title: Renewing Access to an Iconic North Shore Vista

Project Budget: \$197,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Lisa Luukkala

Organization: Superior Hiking Trail Association

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 22, 2023

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: November 30, 2025

Final Report Due Date: January 14, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08m

Appropriation Language: \$197,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to use national trail design best practices to renew trails and a campground along the Bean and Bear Lakes section of the Superior Hiking Trail that provides access to one of Minnesota's most iconic vistas.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: We seek to renew access to one of Minnesota's most iconic vistas, the Bean and Bear Lakes section of the Superior Hiking Trail, using national trail design best practices.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The Superior Hiking Trail is showing its age. Now 36 years old, many sections of the Trail are in need of renewal, particularly those areas on the Trail that experience heavy visitor use and have end-of-lifespan infrastructure. One of these locations is Bean and Bear Lakes. This section of Trail can easily be claimed as one of the most photographed locations along the North Shore. It has earned its popularity because of its relatively easy access, panoramic views and natural beauty.

The construction of the Superior Hiking Trail were some of the very first projects funded by LCCMR over thirty years ago. These funds played an instrumental role in providing 300 miles of recreational access to the rocky ridgeline along Lake Superior. Now, more than ever, the Trail needs assistance from LCCMR to renew and enhance the trail corridor to assure that it provides another generation of Minnesotan's a high quality outdoor recreation experience. Unlike much recreational infrastructure in the state, the Trail is managed and maintained by a non-profit and works with over 200 landowners to provide access. Because of this we are very limited to what types of funding are available on a state and federal level.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

We will renew, rebuild and reinforce this section of Trail that sees high visitor use and user impacts. Our staff, lead volunteers and professional trail building contractors will employ modern sustainable trail building practices that will amour the Trail and protect the adjacent land and water. Bean and Bear was identified as a problematic area along the Trail corridor during the 2019 assessments conducted in part by a ENRTF funded evaluation. Known as one of the "Big Bad Five," Bean and Bear is noted to have some of the most significant erosion issues on the Trail.

The trail renewal techniques used on this particular section of Trail will utilize primarily natural materials found on site to design a more resilient Trail. The use of stone steps and modern trail water management techniques will help this section of the Trail withstand adverse weather events and increased visitor use. Once complete, the Trail will properly shed water and reduce erosion on both the Trail itself and the adjacent land.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Through our Trail Renewal Program, the Superior Hiking Trail Association assures that every mile of the footpath along the North Shore is built sustainably to be enjoyed by tens of thousands of annual visitors for decades to come -- all without causing unnecessary harm to surrounding lands and waters. Our efforts to make the SHT resilient to climate changes and increase visitor use will help protect and preserve the sensitive habitats and ecosystems through which the Trail traverses.

The Trail is a space for exploration and education -- it's where thousands of Minnesotans start their lifelong connection to the outdoors.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

County(s): Lake

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Increase the resiliency of the Bean and Bear Trail section through stone work.

Activity Budget: \$103,000

Activity Description:

By utilizing nature's own most sustainable building materials, SHTA plans to amour the Trail using stone that can be sourced hyper-locally along the trail corridor. This stone is the most resilient and long-lasting material available to Northeastern Minnesotan trail builders and this section of the Trail has plenty of it to spare. Deeply graded sections of the Bean and Bear section will be retrofitted with stone steps and lower muddier sections of the Trail section will be retrofitted with stone step stones which will allow trail users to traverse through perennial mudholes with ease while also reducing impacts to adjacent land.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contractor secured for 2024 work	December 31, 2023
Contractor secured for 2025 work	December 31, 2024
75 to 125 stone steps installed along the Bean and Bear trail section	September 30, 2025
10 to 20 step stones installed along Bean and Bear trail section	October 31, 2025

Activity 2: Renew tread, install drainage management systems and reroute a small section of the Bean and Bear trail section

Activity Budget: \$91,000

Activity Description:

Due to poor location of the original trail alignment, age of trail infrastructure and erosion due to storm events and heavy visitor use there are portions of the Bean and Bear trail section that require tread repair, drainage work, puncheon (boardwalk) replacement and even a short reroute to avert a particularly challenging areas of the original alignment. These measures will help repair the existing footpath and allow water to stay off the trail. By keeping water off, we keep people on the Trail and reduce impacts to the adjacent land when people try to find alternative routes around a particularly soggy section of trail.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Installation of between 750 to 850 feet of puncheon	November 30, 2025
Renew/repair and provide proper drainage for 2,500 to 3,500 ft of tread	November 30, 2025
Reroute 1,000 ft. of trail to more sustainably located alignment(s)	November 30, 2025

Activity 3: Campsite renewal

Activity Budget: \$3,000

Activity Description:

The campsite located along this trail section sees heavy use and a lot of wear and tear. Just like any other piece of trail infrastructure, campsites require not only annual maintenance but also more intensive repair and renewal over time. The goal will be to reset the tent pads within the campsite to more clearly delineate the campsite boundary.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Rehab plan is finalized and permissions in place with land manager	October 31, 2024
One campsite will be repaired and renewed	November 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Christa Maxwell	Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Division	Liaison to SHTA from DNR to assist in planning and executing trail projects within North Shore state parks	No
Nate Eide	Lake County	Liaison to SHTA from Lake County to assist in planning and executing trail projects within Lake County managed public lands	No
Matt Davis	North Country Trail Association	Provides advice, counsel, technical assistance	No
Lana Fralich	City of Silver Bay	Liaison to the City of Silver Bay regarding communications and coordination for site access and staging materials	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgment Guidelines. Specifically, ENRTF will be acknowledged through the following communication platforms: (1) SHTA's monthly e-newsletter that is sent out to 11,000 individuals. There is no cost to receive this newsletter and majority of those who sign up are supports and users of the Trail. We recognize funders and provide project updates through this publication. (2) SHTA's twice monthly Ridgeline publication that is sent out to 3,000 households. This publication is for members of the Association and we recognize our grant funders and highlight project in each publication. (3) Press releases, social media and earn media around the project. Upon completion of the project we will engage the media through a press release and/or a media event to share the story of this project and its funding partners.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Advancements in sustainable trail building techniques will allow SHTA to reset the lifespan of the Trail and prepare for a more resilient future.

SHTA continues to diversify its funding streams and strengthen relationships with land managers to guarantee a high-quality recreational experience now and into the future. SHTA's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan clearly outlines a road map to secure the trail corridor for future generations of users, address emerging needs around visitor use management all while assuring adequate resources are in place to support the longevity of the Trail corridor and support people to safely and respectfully use Minnesota's public lands.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f	\$100,000
Restoring Five Sections of the Superior Hiking Trail	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09o	\$191,000

Plumbing The Muddy Depths Of Superior Hiking Trail	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h	\$187,000
Superior Hiking Trail As Environmental Showcase	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09k	\$450,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Trail Operations Director		Project Manager/Oversee the selection and management of contractors and volunteers			15%	0.15		\$10,150
							Sub Total	\$10,150
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Professional trail building and stone work				3		\$162,360
							Sub Total	\$162,360
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Lumber and building supplies	Construction of puncheon (boardwalk)					\$23,740
							Sub Total	\$23,740
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Up to 10 visits to the site (planning through post-construction)	Mileage and meals for Trail Operations Director for site visits over the course of the project					\$750
							Sub Total	\$750

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$197,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	SHTA Donations	Additional staff time for project management	Pending	\$5,000
In-Kind	SHTA Volunteer Hours	Project labor valued at \$20/hour	Pending	\$4,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$9,000
			Funds Total	\$9,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [65f3c05a-dbb.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of Bean and Bear trail assessment and calls out of specific recommendations and examples of the replacement structures and trail renewal techniques....

Financial Capacity

File: [bf4310c7-ba5.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
SHTA Board Resolution - May 2022	0fbfbfba-0e5.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
City of Silver Bay Letter of Support	9e454e26-bf9.pdf
DNR District Supervisor Letter of Support	e60d1cb4-6fc.pdf
Background Check Certification Form	1d1a87bf-723.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

SHTA staff have adjusted the quantities in the Milestone deliverables to reflect a range, for instance "10 to 20 stone steps" instead of definitive "18." This range allows volunteers and contractors to adapt their plans based on construction site conditions. The nature of trail work requires a level of flexibility. This is the case for Milestones 1 and 2 under Activity 1, and Milestone 1,2, and 3 under Activity 2.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I agree to the Commissioner's Plan.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No